(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Under the National e-Governance Plan, a Mission Mode approach for computerization of Gram Panchayats is being formulated. This will also contain a time bound action plan for computerization of Panchayats to be put in place.

Devolution of powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions

895. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some fresh initiatives have been taken to vest the Panchayati Raj institutions with more powers recently and, accordingly, a plan has been drawn-up to implement some 300 Centrally sponsored schemes through these institutions;

(b) if so, the details of the plan drawn up and its present status;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this Ministry have sent a list of 150 recommendations on the devolution of powers to the Panchayati Raj institutions, to all the States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and views expressed, if any, by the States?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) A Task Force of officials in charge of Panchayati Raj in the States was constituted with Secretary (Panchayati Raj) Government of Karnataka as Convenor in pursuance of a decision taken in the Fifth Round Table Conference of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj held at Srinagar on 28-29 October, 2004. The objective of the Task Force was to examine the Centrally Sponsored Schemes currently being implemented in the

States in the context of the role these schemes provide to the PRIs is planning and implementation of these schemes in accordance with the provisions of Part-IX of the Constitution and the State Legislations on Panchayati Raj.

The recommendations of the Task Force were presented to the State Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj during the seventh Round Table Conference held at Jaipur and were unanimously adopted by the Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj in the States.

(b) In pursuance of the directive circulated by the Cabinet Secretariat, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in consultation with the other Ministries concerned and the Planning Commission, is examining new Centrally Sponsored Schemes and guidelines for existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes with a view to ensuring the centrality of panchayats in the planning and implementation of matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule read with Article 243G of the Constitution.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj convened seven Round Table meetings with State Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj and evolved, by consensus, a set of around 150 points for action which have been put together in a compendium that was adopted unanimously at the conclusion of the last Round Table in Jaipur. A Council of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj under the Chairmanship of Union Minister for Panchayati Raj has been constituted to monitor the implementation of the recommendations. The inaugural meeting of the Council, which is on the subject of Panchayati Raj, will be held on 5th - 6th August, 2005 at Kochi. A Committee of Chief Secretaries of States and State Panchayati Raj Secretaries has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (Panchayati Raj) to monitor the progress on the implementation of the 150 recommendations of the Seven Round Tables. Two review meetings of the Committee have so far been held on the 11th April, 2005 and 29th June, 2005. The Ministry has now initiated a process of visiting each of the States/UTs to review with the authorities concerned the progress in implementing the points for action contained in the compendium. It is expected that this will accelerate the pace of implementation of

provisions of Part IX, read with Article 243ZD of the Constitution and bring about greater conformity, in both letter and spirit, to the Constitutional provisions of Panchayati Raj in all States/UTs concerned.

National Panchayati portal

896. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for a national Panchayati portal;

(b) if so, the details of panchayats that are having computer as on today, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) the details including the States marked for linking with the portal and the fund allotted to the States' panchayats for the above purpose, State-wise and category-wise; and

(d) the details of fund allotted to Panchayati Raj institutions during the year 2004-05, State-wise and category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) A National Panchayat Portal at http://panchayat.nic.in is already functional.

(b) and (c) The Portal contains the framework for the website of all State Panchayati Raj Deptts., all Zila Parishads, all Block Parishads and all village panchayats. All States have been advised to update the District and Block-wise data of village panchayats and their bank accounts through the State units of National Informatics Centre (NIC) to finally upload these on the National Panchayat Portal. No fund allocation has been made specifically for this purpose.

(d) Funds are allotted to Panchayati Raj Institutions under SGRY and Finance Commission grants. Statements showing State-wise release of grants for the year 2004-05 under SGRY, as also as per the recommendations of the XI Finance Commission and their utilization by the Panchayati Raj Institutions are at Statements I and II.